

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 13, 2004. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 7 and 18-20 are withdrawn and claims 1-5 and 8-17 are rejected. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows.

**Response to objection to the Drawings**

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) on the basis that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The drawings and specification have been amended to include reference to recessed bearing surfaces shown in the FIGS. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested. No new matter is added.

**Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 4-5 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et, U.S. Patent No. 6,424,495. Claim 1 is independent and claims 4-5 and 8 depend therefrom. Claim 1 has been amended to recite *inter alia* a textured surface at a predicted tipped position to incorporate subject matter of cancelled claim 2. Claim 9 has been amended to recite *inter alia* a textured surface at a predicted tipped position of a dynamically imbalanced SLIP interface. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4-5 and 8-9 as amended under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) on the basis that claim 2 reciting a textured surface is not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

**Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 2-3 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. Claim 2 has been cancelled and claim 3 has been amended to depend upon amended claim 1. As amended claim 1 recites *inter alia* a slider including a dynamically imbalanced pad to form a predicted tipped position along a raised bearing surface proximate to a trailing

edge portion and the raised bearing surface at the predicted tipped position having a textured surface. The Office Action recites that Kobayashi et al. discloses use of a laser to provide a textured surface on a bearing surface at Col. 3, lines 40-42 and thus it would have been obvious to provide a textured surface or interface.

Kobayashi discloses a slider 14 in FIG. 2 including a first pad 35 along rail 31 and a second pad 34 along rail 30 shifted towards the inflow end as compared to the first pad 35. As shown, slider 14 includes protrusion 36 spaced from the second pad 34 towards the outflow end of the slider. As disclosed protrusion 36 is formed on a transducer portion or transducer protection layer 22 to provide a disc interface proximate to the transducer portion or layer 22 of the slider 14. As described the slider body 21 is formed of a  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-TiC}$  and the transducer protection layer 22 is formed of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Kobayashi discloses a rugged surface 51 formed on the slider body not the transducer layer 22 and thus there is no basis to modify the head 14 of Kobayashi to include a rugged surface 51 on the transducer layer 22 along an outflow end of rail 30 having a shifted pad 34.

To establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the claims, there must be some suggestion or basis to modify the references. Neither the Office Action nor the Kobayashi reference provides a basis to modify the transducer layer 22 at the outflow end of rail 30 having shifted pad 34 to provide a textured interface since Col. 3, lines 40-42 does not teach nor suggest a textured interface for protrusion 36 or transducer portion or protection layer 22. Based upon the foregoing, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the claims and accordingly allowance of claims 1, 3-5 and 8-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is independent and claims 11-17 depend therefrom. Claims 10-17 recite *inter alia* a slider body including a raised bearing surface including a raised center pad and at

least one recessed bearing surface and including a slider integrated pad on a first side portion dynamically imbalanced relative to a second side portion to form a predicted tipped position for the slider on the second side portion. Claims 10-17 were rejected on the basis that it would have been obvious to modify Kobayashi to include pad 35 and offset pad 34 and a raised center pad since "having a center rear bearing surface with a transducer reduces overall pitch and roll movement of the transducer".

Kobayashi discloses a slider having an attitude or inclination angle to minimize the distance between the transducer element 26 at an outflow end of rail 30 and the disc surface. As disclosed, pad 34 along rail 30 is shifted toward the inflow end as compared to pad 35 so that it is possible to achieve the closest approach of the transducer element 26 (at the outflow end of rail 30) to the disc while preventing collision between the pad 34 and the surface of the recording disc. Thus the motivation for the offset position of pad 34 relative to pad 35 is related to the transducer element 26 at an outflow end of side rail 30.

Kobayashi discloses a shifted pad along rail 30 having a transducer element along an outflow end thereof. There is no teaching or suggestion in Kobayashi to provide a shifted pad 34 for a slider including a center pad as claimed since the motivation for the shift pad 34 along rail 30 is to provide the closest approach of the transducer element 26 at the outflow of that rail 30. The Office Action states that the subject matter of claim 10 is obvious since raised center pads are notoriously old and well known and one would be motivated to provide a center bearing surface with a transducer to reduce overall pitch and roll of the transducer. This does not provide or establish a motivation to provide a shifted or imbalanced pad 34 for a center pad bearing as claimed. Accordingly, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the claims. Based upon

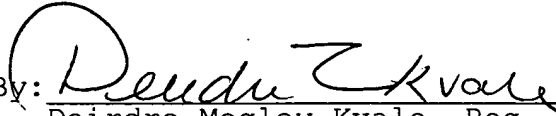
the foregoing reconsideration and allowance of claims 10-17 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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